

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1646

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Cynthia Stone Creem**  
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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the appointment of GAL to investigate.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia Stone Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GAL TO INVESTIGATE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 215 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1996 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking section 56A and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:—

4           Section 56A. Any judge of a probate and family court may appoint a guardian ad litem to  
5 investigate the facts of any proceeding pending in said court relating to or involving questions as  
6 to the care, custody or maintenance of minor children and as to any matter involving domestic  
7 relations except those for the investigation of which provision is made by section sixteen of  
8 chapter two hundred and eight. Said guardian ad litem shall, before final judgment or decree in  
9 such proceeding, report in writing to the court the results of the investigation, and such report  
10 shall be open to inspection to all the parties in such proceeding or their attorneys. The  
11 compensation, together with any expense, shall be fixed by the court and shall be paid by the  
12 commonwealth, upon certificate by the judge to the state treasurer or by one or both of the  
13 parties, as the court may order. The state police, local police and probation officers shall assist  
14 the guardian ad litem so appointed, upon his request.